



# Michigan *Office of the Auditor General* REPORT SUMMARY

## *Performance Audit*

## *Bridge Programs*

## *Michigan Department of Transportation*

Report Number:  
59-165-02

Released:  
June 2003

*The Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT's) oversight of the State and federal bridge rehabilitation and replacement programs is carried out by the Construction and Technology Division which administers the State trunkline bridge rehabilitation program, State bridge inspection program, and annual reporting of all bridges in the State to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Design Division which administers the local agency critical bridge program.*

### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess the effectiveness of MDOT's State bridge inspection program.

### ***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that MDOT's State bridge inspection program was generally effective. MDOT has established and staffed a State bridge inspection program that meets FHWA requirements. Bridge inspection training is provided to staff on a periodic basis in order to maintain a sufficient number of trained staff to conduct bridge inspections. However, we noted reportable conditions involving bridge inspections and bridge inventory.

### ***Reportable Conditions:***

MDOT did not obtain inspection reports of all local agency bridges. Also, MDOT did not conduct bridge inspections of all State-owned bridges biennially as required by the FHWA and State statute. (Finding 1)

MDOT needs to identify and correct variances in reporting from its bridge management database (Finding 2).

### ***Agency Response:***

MDOT's preliminary response indicated that it concurred with the corresponding recommendations and that it was implementing corrective action.

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### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess the effectiveness of MDOT's process for selecting and monitoring bridge projects.

### ***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that MDOT's process for selecting and monitoring bridge projects was generally effective. However, we noted reportable conditions involving the four-year contract award requirement and the critical bridge selection formula.

### ***Reportable Conditions:***

MDOT did not enforce its critical bridge procedure requiring local agencies to complete the work necessary to allow MDOT to award construction contracts on critical bridge projects within four years of receiving funding approval (Finding 3).

MDOT, in cooperation with the critical bridge advisory committee, needs to update the critical bridge selection formula to reflect current conditions to ensure that the bridges most in need of repair receive funding (Finding 4).

***Agency Response:***

MDOT's preliminary response indicated that it concurred with the corresponding recommendations and that it was implementing corrective action.

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***Audit Objective:***

To assess the effectiveness of MDOT's efforts to evaluate the quality of its bridge programs.

***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that MDOT's efforts to evaluate the quality of its bridge programs were effective. MDOT periodically trains staff who perform bridge inspections to ensure that staff consistently inspect and rate the condition of bridges. Also, MDOT is completing a quality assurance/quality control manual for the State bridge inspection program that will help meet this goal. Our report does not contain any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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obtained by calling 517.334.8050  
or by visiting our Web site at:  
[www.state.mi.us/audgen/](http://www.state.mi.us/audgen/)



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